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13 March 1968

Dear Admiral Taylor:

As you may have read recently, General Gehlen is going to retire as head of the West German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) on the 30th of April, 1968. I am sure you will agree that he has had a career in intelligence which is unique in the Western World. His departure will mark the end of an era here in Germany.

It is my understanding that the appreciation of the US Intelligence Community will be conveyed to General Gehlen in a variety of ways and on a number of occasions. However, it occurred to me that it would be appropriate if you would be so kind as to write to General Gehlen expressing your appreciation for the assistance he and his organization provided to ONI during your tenure as DNI.

: I have also written to Admirals Frost, Espe, Fluckey, and Lowrance making a similar request.

Thank you Admiral, for your cooperation. I know that the letters from the Directors of Naval Intelligence will be deeply appreciated by the General and will become valued momentoes of his association with the United States Navy. If you would send your letter to me, I shall insure that it is -- along with the others -- securely and appropriately presented to General Gehlen.

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Very respectfully,

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